

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kota Ezawa: *The Crime of Art (Hollywood Edition)*

January 6 – March 10, 2018

**Opening Reception for the Artist:
Saturday, January 6, 4:00 – 6:00 PM**



The Crime of Art, 2017 (still)



Adele Bloch-Bauer I, 2016

Santa Monica, November 2017 – Christopher Grimes Gallery is pleased to announce a solo exhibition by Kota Ezawa, his third with the gallery. At the heart of the exhibition will be the new multi-channel animated film, *The Crime of Art*, in which Ezawa re-creates – in his distinctive flattened, distilled style – scenes from Hollywood art heist films, among them *The Thomas Crown Affair* (1999), *How to Steal a Million*, *Topkapi*, and *Entrapment*.

Ezawa will also present a selection of light boxes that further his investigations into stolen works of art, including to-scale recreations of Edvard Munch's *The Scream*, versions of which were stolen in 1994 and 2004, and Gustav Klimt's *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I*, which was appropriated by the Nazi regime in 1938 and was famously repatriated to the Bloch-Bauer family in 2006.

Ezawa notes: “I feel compelled to produce an exhibition dealing with ‘stolen art works’ because my own process could be regarded as a form of image theft. One could say I’m hoping to steal these images back and give them a new life.”

Kota Ezawa (b. 1969, Cologne, Germany) lives and works in San Francisco, California. His work is currently on view in a solo exhibition at SITE Santa Fe, NM and in the group exhibition *Art Lessons* at the Thyssen Bornemisza Museum in Madrid. Additionally, he has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Mead Art Museum, Amherst, MA (2017); Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA (2015); Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY (2013); Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA (2013); Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH (2009); Hayward Gallery Project Space, London, England (2007); and Artpace, San Antonio, TX (2006). Ezawa’s work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; Art Institute of Chicago, IL; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA; J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Pier 24 Photography, San Francisco, CA; and Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA; among others.

For further information and press materials please contact the gallery at 310.587.3373 or gallery@cgrimes.com.